



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/851,293	05/08/2001	Tebaldo Granata	SODH.84679	3134

7590 09/26/2003

Peter W Gowdey
SHOOK, HARDY & BACON L.L.P.
600 14th Street NW Suite 800
Hamilton Square
Washington, DC 20005-2004

EXAMINER

GONZALEZ, MADELINE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

2859

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/851,293

Applicant(s)

GRANATA, TEBALDO

Examiner

Madeline Gonzalez

Art Unit

2859

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 18 July 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11 and 13-18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-11,14 and 18 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 15-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 13 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 08 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

In response to applicant's amendment dated July 18, 2003

Claim Objections

1. Claim 13 is finally objected to because of the following informalities:
 - a) Claim 13: The claim recites the limitation "the drive" in lines 2 and 3. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 15-17 are finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 15 is finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. It is not clear

Art Unit: 2859

where is the axle measuring unit located with respect to the platform, and the location of the axle measurement unit lifting device with respect to the axle measuring unit.

Claim 15: The claim recites the limitation “an assembly to synchronously lift the vehicle lift platform and the axle measuring unit, and an axle measurement unit lifting device to move the axle measuring unit independently of and relative to the vehicle lift platform”. This limitation is confusing and contradictory since it is not clear if the platform and the axle measuring unit move at the same time or independently. Based on the specification, it appears that the platform and the axle measuring unit are moved synchronously, while the first and second stages of the axle measurement unit lifting device are moved independently.

Claim 17: The claim recites the limitation “a second lifting stage” in line 2. This limitation is confusing because a first stage has not being claimed in claim 15.

Claim 16 is rejected due to its dependency on claim 15.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 14 and 18 are allowed.

Art Unit: 2859

5. Claims 13 and 15-17 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objection(s) and/or rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claim 1 is allowed because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a chassis measuring apparatus having an axle measurement lifting device including first and second lifting stages, and means for a synchronous displacement of a lifting drive for a vehicle lift platform and of a lifting drive for the second lifting stage of the axle measurement lifting device, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Claims 2 and 4-10 are allowed due to their dependency on claim 1.

Claim 11 is allowed because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a method of chassis measurement of a vehicle, the method including the steps of: vertically displacing an axle measurement lifting device by a first lifting stage; and when a vehicle lift platform is raised, following the movement of the vehicle lift platform with an axle measuring unit by means of a second stage, wherein the second stage of the axle measurement lifting device is raised synchronously with the vehicle lift platform, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Claim 14 is allowed due to its dependency on claim 11.

Claim 18 is allowed because the prior art of record does not show or suggest a method of chassis measurement of a vehicle, the method including the step of: raising a vehicle lift platform and synchronously raising a chassis measuring unit, in combination with the remaining limitations in the claim.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

8. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

Art Unit: 2859

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Madeline Gonzalez whose telephone number is (703) 308-7004. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-5:30), alternate Fridays off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Diego F.F. Gutierrez can be reached on (703) 308-3875. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

MG
September 24, 2003



Diego F.F. Gutierrez
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800